

THE LADY OF THE HEAVENS

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(Continued.)

The moon was shining brightly and by its light she saw the hyenas, two of them—wolves as they are called in South Africa—longer creatures that prowled round the thorn fence hungrily, causing the oxen that were tied to the trek to tremble and the horses picket on the other side of the wagon to low and whinny in an uneasy fashion. The hyenas saw her also, for her head rose above the rough fence, and being cowardly beasts, slunk away. She could have shot them if she chose, but did not, first because she had killed anything unnecessarily, even a wolf, and secondly because it would have aroused the oxen. So she contented herself with throwing more of dry wood on the fire, stepping over the Kaffirs who slept like logs, in order to do so. Then, resting upon her gun like a cat, she gazed at the moon, and the long line of game tracking silently to their drinking place, until seeing no more of the wolves or other dangerous beasts, she turned and sought her bed again.

She was thinking of Mr. Ishmael and his zebra-skin trousers, wondering when she should have filled her with such an unreasoning dislike. If she had disliked him at a distance of fifty paces, how would she have him when he was near? And yet he was, probably one of those broken soldiers of fortune of whom she had met several, who took to the wilderness as a last resource, and by degrees, among the level of the savages among whom they lived, a person who was not worth a second thought. So she tried to put him from her mind, and by way of an antidote, since still she could not sleep, filled it with her recollections of Richard Darrien. Some years had gone by since they had met, and from that time to this she had never heard a word of him in which she could put the slightest faith. She did not even know whether he were alive or dead, only she believed that if he were dead she would be aware of it. No, she had never heard of him, and it seemed probable that she never would hear of him again. Yet she did not believe that either. Had she done so her happiness—for on the whole Rachel was a happy girl—would have departed from her, since this one-voiced had forgotten their farewell kiss.

Reflecting thus, at length Rachel fell off to sleep and began to dream, still of Richard Darrien. It was a long dream, whereof afterwards she could remember but little, but in it there were shoutings and black faces, and the flashing of spears, and she had never heard a word of him in which she could put the slightest faith. She did not even know whether he were alive or dead, only she believed that if he were dead she would be aware of it. No, she had never heard of him, and it seemed probable that she never would hear of him again. Yet she did not believe that either. Had she done so her happiness—for on the whole Rachel was a happy girl—would have departed from her, since this one-voiced had forgotten their farewell kiss.

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CHAPTER V.

That a girl should set out alone to bathe through a country inhabited by wild beasts, and that a few wandering savages, sounds a somewhat dangerous form of amusement. So it was indeed, but Rachel cared nothing for such dangers, in fact she never even thought of them. Long ago she had discovered that the animals would not harm her if she did not harm them, except perhaps the rhinoceros, which is given to charging on sight, and that was large and could generally be discovered at a distance. As for elephants and lions, or even buffalo, her experience told her that they were not to be feared, and that when they stood still, and stared at her, she was afraid of the savages who always treated her with the utmost respect, even if they had never seen her before. Still, in case of accidents she took her double-barrelled gun, loaded in one barrel with ball, and in the other with lead, and she was armed and awoken Tom, the driver, to tell him where she was going. The man stared at her sleepily, and murmured a remonstrance, but taking no heed of him she pulled out some thorns from the fence to make a passage, and in another minute was lost to sight in the morning mist.

Following a game-path through the dew-drenched grass which grew upon the swells and valleys of the veld, and passing many small buck upon her way, in about twenty minutes, just as the light was really beginning to grow, Rachel reached the sea. It was dead calm, and the tide changing to be out, soon she found where there would be no fear of sharks that never stay in such a spot, fearing lest they should be stranded. Slipping off her clothes she plunged into the cool and crystal water and began to swim sound and strong, and at this point she was expert, diving and playing like a sea-nymph. Her bath done she dried herself with a towel she had brought, all except her long fair hair, which she left loose for the wind to blow on, and having dressed, stood a while waiting to see the glory of the sun rising from the ocean.

Whilst she remained thus, suddenly she heard the sound of horses galloping towards her, two of them, she could tell that from the hoof beats, although the low-lying mists made them invisible. A few more seconds and they emerged out of the fog. The first thing that she saw were stripes which caused her to laugh thinking that she had mistaken zebras for horses. Then the laugh died on her lips as she recognized that the stripes were those of Mr. Ishmael's trousers. Yes, there was no doubt about it, Mr. Ishmael, wearing a rough coat and of his lion skin, but with the rest of his attire unchanged, was galloping down upon her furiously, leading a riderless horse. Remembering her past and dishevelled hair, Rachel threw the towel over it, whence it hung like an old Egyptian head-dress, setting her beautiful face in a most becoming frame. Next she placed up her double-barrelled gun and cocked it, for she misadvised her of this man's intentions. Not many modern books came her way, but she had read stories of young women who were carried off by force.

For an instant she was frightened, but as she lifted the hammer of the second barrel her constitutional courage returned.

"Let him try it," she thought to herself. "If he had come ten minutes ago it would have been awful, but now I don't care."

By this time Mr. Ishmael had arrived, and was dragging his horse to his haunches; also she saw that evidently he was much more frightened than she had been. The man's handsome face was quite white, and his lips were trembling. "Perhaps that rhinoceros is after him again," thought Rachel, then added aloud quietly:

"What is the matter?"

"Forgive me," he answered in a rich, and to Rachel's astonishment, perfectly educated voice, "forgive me for disturbing you. I am ashamed, but it is necessary. The Zulus—" and he paused.

To be Continued.

NOTICE.

In compliance with votes taken by the board of Apportionment and Taxation at a meeting held Monday, February 8, 1909, the following proposed appropriations and tax rates to be made and levied by the city of Bridgeport for the ensuing fiscal year from April 1, 1909, were adopted:

FIRST DISTRICT.

Advertising, printing and stationery, \$2,000.00
Ambulance and emergency, \$6,174.25
Apportionment, board of, 200.00
Assessors, salaries, etc., 3,308.00
Assessors, block maps, 6,000.00
Bonds, betterment, 2,000.00
Bonds, improvement, 10,000.00
Bonds, municipal, 10,000.00
Bonds, re-issue, 3,000.00
Bonds, improvement No. 2, 3,000.00
Bonds, voting machine, 1,900.00
Bridges, Superintendent of, 510.00
Building Commissioners, 2,800.00
Building Laws, Revision of, 3,500.00
City Attorney, 500.00
City Hall, fuel, light, etc., 6,230.00
County Tax, 7,800.00
Culvert, Rooster River, 2,700.00
Dog tax to state, 500.00
Dog Warden, 900.00
Election expenses, enrollment for primaries, 688.00
Election expenses, miscellaneous, 2,000.00
Election expenses, registrars of voters, 6,225.00
Election expenses, selectmen, 220.00
Garbage Disposal, 29,608.00
Garbage Disposal, special, re-appropriation, 7,500.00
Health, 6,776.00
Hunters' licenses, 700.00
Interest on funded debt, 31,850.50
Land records, indexing, 1,000.00
Library fund, 19,735.00
Lights, 6,090.00
Liquor and dog agent, 1,182.25
Main street, new macadam, 3,000.00
Memorial Day, 800.00
Military commutation tax, 14,000.00
Miscellaneous, 2,500.00
Police and Charities' building, 6,120.00
Poor, care of, 55,208.63
Poor, care of, deficiency, 25,000.00
Poor, care of, tuberculosis hospital, 1,720.00
Poor, care of, wiring, etc., 500.00
Probate Court, 965.00
Road, board of, 1,000.00
Roads and bridges, 6,500.00
Salaries, 6,454.00
Schools, 303,612.00
School buildings, additional, 78,900.00
School equipment, and prospect, 1,200.00
Services and fees, 1,200.00
Sinking Fund, 5,500.00
State Highway construction, 2,500.00
Street grading, 2,000.00
Town Clerk's Office, 9,500.00
Trees, removal of, 300.00
Truant officers, 2,872.50
Total, \$759,568.13

The following are the estimated receipts in the First District:
Licenses, \$135,000.00
Dog Licenses, 5,500.00
Building Permits, 2,000.00
Care of poor, 43,000.00
Interest on deposits, 4,000.00
Military taxes, 6,000.00
Poll taxes, 1,800.00
Towns clerk's office, 6,000.00
Garbage, special, unexpended, 7,500.00
Rooster river culvert, unexpended, 1,700.00
Hunters' licenses, 700.00
Total, \$223,700.00

Aggregate amount of foregoing appropriations, \$759,568.13
Amount to be raised by taxation, 535,868.13
Estimated grand list, 78,900.00
A tax of six and eight-tenths mills on each dollar of the grand list will realize, 536,520.00
Probable excess, 851.87

SECOND DISTRICT.

Advertising, printing and stationery, \$5,000.00

Honey, \$5,000.00

Wm. K. Mollan

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FOR MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN

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